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30 May 2022

Dear Monique Hawkins and Kate Smart,

Thank you for your email of 18 May to Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, about the process for holders of pre-settled status to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Please note you are receiving a reply from an official.

We always welcome feedback on how we can improve our services and we are grateful to you for bringing these issues to our attention.

The latest quarterly EU Settlement Scheme statistics were published on 26 May covering the period up to 31 March 2022. They show that 328,350 people have now moved from pre-settled to settled status. We are pleased to see that eligible individuals are applying for settled status as soon as they are eligible to do so and are aware that it is the length of their continuous residence, and not the time elapsed since the grant of pre-settled status, which makes them eligible for settled status. This is enabling us to review processes and respond to feedback on the application journey before the first grants of pre-settled status start to expire in the Autumn 2023.

As we have advised previously, we have committed to reminding people of the need to apply for settled status before their pre-settled status is due to expire, and alongside that work we continue to review the application process and public facing guidance to ensure the process will be smooth, transparent and simple, in line with the requirements of the Citizens' Rights Agreements. Your feedback is an important part of that work and we will ensure that we consider the issues you have raised.

Yours sincerely,

EEA Citizens' Rights & Hong Kong Unit
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